

HOUSE RESOLUTION 49

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc., upon the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary organizations that are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, comprising seventy percent of all cases; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in America of persons aged sixty-five and older; and

WHEREAS, every sixty-eight seconds, a new case of Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, 120,000 Tennesseans are living with Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, a small group of Knoxville-area families began to meet in an effort to understand and cope with Alzheimer's disease—later that year, Alzheimer's Tennessee was incorporated and opened its first office, and has been serving Tennesseans for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan signed the proclamation in 1983 that designated November as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Alzheimer's Tennessee convened the first support group for caregivers who have a loved one with Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Alzheimer's Tennessee hosted its first annual Alzheimer's Disease Research Symposium focused on highlighting research for physicians and professional caregivers; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Alzheimer's Tennessee sponsored the first training for family caregivers and, to date, thousands of individuals have benefitted from similar training workshops; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Alzheimer's Tennessee sent the first delegation of family caregivers to Washington, D.C., to advocate for increased funding for NIH Alzheimer's research; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Alzheimer's Tennessee hosted its first Alzheimer's Walk, bringing together a community dedicated to the fight against Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Alzheimer's Tennessee hired its first full-time Executive Director, Janice Wade-Whitehead; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Alzheimer's Tennessee opened an office in Cookeville, Tennessee, to better serve the population on the Plateau and Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Alzheimer's Tennessee opened an award-winning adult day model called Howard Circle of Friends; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Alzheimer's Tennessee Executive Director Janice Wade-Whitehead was appointed by the Governor to provide leadership and partnership with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and others to create the first state plan to address Alzheimer's disease—one of the first State Alzheimer's Plans in the country; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Alzheimer's Tennessee received recognition as a leader in the state and federally received US Administration on Aging grant funding through the Tennessee Commission on Aging to develop models of care, with managed care organizations and primary care physicians to improve quality of life for those living with Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Alzheimer's Tennessee ended a national affiliation to ensure that funds raised in Tennessee stayed in Tennessee to provide more programs and services for the Alzheimer's community; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's Tennessee has been a steadfast advocate for the Alzheimer's community; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Alzheimer's Tennessee, in partnership with the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, sponsored one of the largest brain banks in the country; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's Tennessee received one of the first awarded grants from the Pat Summitt Foundation; and

WHEREAS, for thirty years, Alzheimer's Tennessee has been committed to advancing Alzheimer's research and enhancing care, education, and support for individuals living with this disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc., for its tireless dedication to enhancing the knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease, congratulate all concerned on the occasion of the organization's thirtieth anniversary, and extend our best wishes for every continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.